

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01162 231100Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 EA-07 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3574

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, XO, IN, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: THE INDIAN OCEAN--NOBODY HERE BUT US IMPERIALISTS.

1. TWO INDIAN MINISTERS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 22 ONCE AGAIN UNDERSCORED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S PUBLIC POSITION THAT THERE ARE ONLY WESTERN BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BIPIN PAL DAS SAID THE GOI WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SOVIET MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE DEPUTY MINISTER WAS RESPONDING TO A WRITTEN ANSWER IN THE LIK SABHA SO PRESUMABLY HIS REPLY WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

2. DAS ADDED THAT ASIDE FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE UK AND FRANCE ALSO HAD SEVERAL NAVAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE INDIANOCEAN. CITING A STATEMENT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, DAS SAID THE UK HAS AN AIRBASE AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IN THE MALDIVES, AN AIRBASE IN MASIRAH (MUSCAT) AND AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES IN MAURITIUS. FRANCE HAS MILITARY

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 01162 231100Z

AND NAVAL FACILITIES AT DJIBUTI AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

IN LA REUNION. US FACILITIES WERE IDENTIFIED AS LOCATED IN
DIEGO GARCIA, THE NORTHWEST CAPE (AUSTRALIA), ASMARA, AND
MAHE.

3. MEANWHILE HIS SENIOR COLLEAGUE, DEFENSE MINISTER BANSAL,
TOLD THE RAJYA SABHA ON THE SAME DATE THAT THE GOI HAS
NO INFORMATION ON INCREASED AMERICAN ACTIVITY IN DIEGO GARCIA.
LAL SAID THE GOI WAS AWARE OF THE REPORTS THAT ACTIVITY ON THE
ISLAND CONTINUED. HE REPEATED THE GOI'S OPPOSITION TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE BASE AND REAFFIRMED THAT THE
GOI'S VIEWS WERE WELL KNOWN AND HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO ALL
CONCERNED.
SCHNEIDER

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